



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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TO: Local and Intermediate School Superintendents
and Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Carol L. Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: Update on Eighth Grade Technology Literacy Certification Requirement

Early last fall, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) were notified of the requirement to report the percentage of eighth grade students meeting the **state's definition of technology literacy** at the end of the 2005-2006 school year.

A student's technology literacy may be assessed in a number of ways:

- Teacher Observation
- Portfolio (hard copy or electronic)
- Formal Assessment
- Completion of Coursework

The Regional Educational Media Centers (REMC), in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL), has created a website with resources to assist school districts in meeting this requirement. Visit the REMC Toolkit at <http://www.remctoolkit.org/> to browse the toolkit and click 'NCLB Technology Literacy Requirements' for more information.

On the site, you will find definitions and links to the following:

- Michigan Educational Technology Standards
- National Educational Technology Standards (NETS)
- METS checklist
- Michigan Electronic Grant System (Certification website)

The REMC Instructional Technologists group (RITS) is currently designing a bank of assessments and questions, based upon the work of Richard Stiggins, which can be utilized for free by local school districts. These assessment questions will be available on the toolkit website by March 2006.

The eighth grade Technology Literacy requirement should be embedded within the LEA school improvement and technology plans. For assistance with technology planning, visit <http://techplan.org>. School district personnel are also encouraged to contact their local REMC for assistance. The annual MACUL technology conference being held in Grand Rapids March 8-10, 2006, is another rich resource for information and ideas on using technology as an essential tool for student achievement.

Questions concerning the eighth grade Technology Literacy requirement should be referred to Ron Faulds or Barb Fardell at (517) 373-0620.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324